

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A shaped expanded graphite article ~~having~~  
comprising, at least in an outer layer portion, an oxidation-resistant coating layer,  
wherein the oxidation-resistant coating layer, ~~wherein the oxidation-resistant coating~~  
~~layer~~ has a thickness of 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  or more, and comprises a boron element and a phosphorus  
element, the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer being 15  
mass% or more and the content of the phosphorus element in the oxidation-resistant coating  
layer being 2 mass% or more, and  
wherein the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is  
greater than that of the content of the phosphorous element in the oxidation-resistant coating  
layer.

Claims 2-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The shaped expanded graphite article according to  
Claim 1, wherein the boron element contained in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is  
contained in at least one material ~~or a combination of two or more materials~~ selected from the  
group consisting of: simple boron; boron carbide; boron chloride; boron fluoride; boron  
bromide; boron iodide; boron nitride; boron oxide; boron silicide; an organic boron  
compound; and a compound ~~containing~~ comprising boron and phosphorus.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 6, wherein the material that ~~contains~~ comprises the boron element has an average particle diameter of 200  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein the phosphorus element ~~contained~~ in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is ~~contained~~ comprised in at least one material or a combination of two or more materials selected from the group consisting of: simple phosphorus; phosphorus oxide; phosphorus carbide; phosphorus chloride; phosphorus fluoride; phosphorus bromide; phosphorus hydroxide; phosphorus nitride; phosphorus silicide; an organic phosphorous compound; and a compound ~~containing~~ comprising phosphorus and boron.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein a shaped expanded graphite article is a sheet shape.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article having an oxidation-resistant coating layer, comprising  
contacting a shaped expanded graphite article with a solution ~~containing~~ comprising a phosphorus element and a boron element, thereby forming a coating layer of said solution on a surface of said article, and then  
subjecting said graphite article to a heat treatment to produce said shaped expanded graphite article comprising said oxidation-resistant coating layer comprising said phosphorus element and said boron element.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 10, wherein a material ~~containing~~ comprising a boron element is at least one material ~~or a combination of two or more materials~~ selected from ~~[[a]]~~ the group consisting of: simple boron; boron carbide; boron chloride; boron fluoride; boron bromide; boron iodide; boron nitride; boron oxide; boron silicide; an organic boron compound; and a compound ~~containing~~ comprising boron and phosphorus.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 11, wherein the material ~~containing~~ comprising a boron element has an average particle diameter of 200  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 10, wherein a material ~~containing~~ comprising a phosphorus element is at least one material ~~or a combination of two or more materials~~ selected from ~~[[a]]~~ the group consisting of: simple phosphorus; phosphorus oxide; phosphorus carbide; phosphorus chloride; phosphorus fluoride; phosphorus bromide; phosphorus hydroxide; phosphorus nitride; phosphorus silicide; an organic phosphorous compound; and a compound ~~containing~~ comprising phosphorus and boron.

Claim 14 (Original): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 10, wherein the heat treatment is performed at 200 degrees C or higher.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article having an oxidation-resistant coating layer, comprising

contacting graphite as a material with a solution ~~containing~~ comprising a phosphorus element and a boron element, thereby forming a coating layer of said solution on a surface of said graphite,

subjecting said graphite to an expanding treatment, and then  
shaping said graphite.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method for producing an oxidation-resistant shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 15, wherein a material ~~containing~~ comprising a boron element is at least one material ~~or a combination of two or more materials~~ selected from ~~[[a]]~~ the group consisting of: simple boron; boron carbide; boron chloride; boron fluoride; boron bromide; boron iodide; boron nitride; boron oxide; boron silicide; an organic boron compound; and a compound ~~containing~~ comprising boron and phosphorus.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 16, wherein the material ~~containing~~ comprising a boron element has an average particle diameter of 200  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 15, wherein a material ~~containing~~ comprising a phosphorus element is at least one material ~~or a combination of two or more materials~~ selected from ~~[[a]]~~ the group consisting of: simple phosphorus; phosphorus oxide; phosphorus carbide; phosphorus chloride; phosphorus fluoride; phosphorus bromide; phosphorus hydroxide; phosphorus nitride; phosphorus silicide; an organic phosphorous compound; and a compound ~~containing~~ comprising phosphorus and boron.

Claim 19-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is 15-30 mass% and the content of the phosphorus element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is 2-10 mass%.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A shaped expanded graphite article, comprising:  
an oxidation resistant coating layer provided to at least an outer layer portion of the shaped expanded graphite article, wherein

the oxidation-resistant coating layer is (i) disposed on the surface of the shaped expanded graphite and at least partially incorporated into the shaped expanded graphite article, (ii) incorporated only to a certain depth of the shaped expanded graphite article, or (iii) incorporated to a core of the shaped expanded graphite article, wherein

the oxidation-resistant coating layer ~~contains~~ comprises a boron element and a phosphorus element;

a content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is 1 mass% or more;

a content of the phosphorus element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is 0.1 mass% or more;

the content of the boron element is higher than that of the phosphorus element; and

the oxidation-resistant coating layer has a thickness of 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  or more.